

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A turbocharger, comprising a turbine with a turbine wheel and a compressor with a compressor wheel, the turbine wheel and the compressor wheel being connected via a shaft, the shaft being rotatably and axially mounted by means of a radial bearing and a thrust bearing arranged between the turbine wheel and the compressor wheel, and the turbine wheel, the shaft and the compressor wheel being arranged in a housing and connected to one another in such a way that, in the event of the compressor wheel bursting, an axial force acts on the turbine wheel and the shaft connected to the turbine wheel, the force acting in the direction of the turbine, wherein a means for axially locking the shaft and the turbine wheel connected to the shaft is arranged on the shaft between the compressor wheel and the thrust bearing, the means for axially locking the shaft, in the event of the compressor wheel bursting, preventing an axial movement of the shaft and of the turbine wheel connected to the shaft in the direction of the turbine.

14. (Previously Presently) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 13, wherein, in the event of the compressor wheel bursting, the means for axially locking

the shaft produces a locking connection between the shaft and an auxiliary bearing firmly connected to the shaft, and the auxiliary bearing is secured in the axial direction by the thrust bearing of the shaft.

15. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 13, wherein the means for axially locking the shaft is essentially radially symmetrical.

16. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 13, wherein the means for axially locking the shaft is a locking ring arranged on the shaft.

17. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 16, wherein an encircling annular groove for accommodating the locking ring is arranged in the shaft, the inserted locking ring projecting radially outward beyond the annular groove.

18. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 13, wherein the means for axially locking the shaft is a retaining sleeve fastened to the shaft.

19. (Previously Presented) A means for axially locking a shaft and the components of a turbocharger which are firmly connected to this shaft, a turbine wheel and a compressor wheel being arranged in a rotationally fixed manner on the shaft, the shaft being rotatably and axially mounted by means of a radial bearing and

a thrust bearing arranged between the turbine wheel and the compressor wheel, and the turbine wheel, the shaft and the compressor wheel being arranged and connected to one another in such a way that, in the event of the compressor wheel bursting, an axially acting force acts on the shaft and on the components firmly connected to the shaft, wherein the means for axially locking the shaft is connected to the shaft between the compressor wheel and thrust bearing in such a way that the means for axially locking the shaft interacts with the thrust bearing by contact between the means for axially locking the shaft and an auxiliary bearing and contact between the auxiliary bearing and the thrust bearing in the event of the compressor wheel bursting, so that the axially acting force is compensated for by this interaction and an axial movement of the shaft and of the components firmly connected to the shaft is prevented.

20. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 17, wherein axial flanks of the annular groove enclose the locking ring axially in a precisely fitting manner.

21. (Previously Presented) The turbocharger as claimed in claim 17, wherein axial flanks of the annular groove enclose the locking ring axially with clearance.